

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections are hereby requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant notes that claims 14 and 16 are not rejected, and Applicant requests confirmation of the allowance of these claims.

Applicant appreciates that the Examiner has withdrawn his objection to the information disclosure statement filed November 22, 2004, after determining that the Applicant indeed did file all of the appropriate documents.

The Examiner has objected to the specification, in particular to the abstract of the disclosure. Applicant submits herewith a substitute abstract herewith. The submission of the substitute abstract is believed to obviate the Examiner's objection. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 15 stands objected to as being a verbatim recitation of claim 3. However, on review of the claims, it will be noted that claim 3 depends from claim 1 whereas claim 15 depends from claim 2. Applicant submits that this objection should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner contends that the reference to "the bearings" in line 3 of claim 6 lacks antecedent basis. Applicant has

amended claim 6 to recite the inclusion of --spaced apart bearings (3,5)--. Claim 18 has also been amended to include this feature.

In view of the above amendment, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 3,945,413 ("Eriksson"). This rejection is respectfully but strenuously traversed and reconsideration and a withdrawal of the rejection are hereby requested.

The Examiner contends that Eriksson discloses a similar device, which the Examiner argues includes a pair of rollers (12) that are disposed on a respective side of the plane of transportation and are facing each other in that the rollers have at least one elevation (2) encircling the rollers (referring to Fig. 2 of Eriksson). The Examiner further contends that Eriksson discloses transport drives associated with the rollers and elevations on the first roller of a pair of rollers located on one side of the plane of transportation which the Examiner asserts are staggered relative to the elevation provided on the second roller of the pair of rollers on the other side of the plane of transportation (again referring to Fig. 2 of Eriksson). The Examiner cites column 2, lines 35-38 of Eriksson to contend further that the allocations are annularly or helically encircling the rollers (col. 2, lines 33-35) of Eriksson for support of a purported disclosure of several axially spaced apart elevations provided on at least one roller. The Examiner further asserts that there is provided at least one bordering elevation (21) at the end of the rollers of Eriksson and that the bordering elevation annularly encircles the respective one of the rollers, and that the bordering elevations are

disposed on the rollers of a pair of rollers so as to face each other. The Examiner also claims that Eriksson provides minimum spacing between the rollers of a pair of rollers set by the spacing between the bearings (17) of the rollers. The Examiner also contends that the spacing between respective turns of the elevations helically encircling the roller are at least 10% greater than the width of the elevations in Eriksson; and that the width of elevations as well as spacing between elevations may range from 2 to 200 mm. The Examiner further contends that the Eriksson rollers are lengthened by at least the length of the bordering elevations at the end of the rollers and that the bordering elevations at the ends of the rollers are located outside a useful area of a conveying path in the processing line (citing to Figs. 1-3 of Eriksson).

Applicant's present invention is not anticipated by Eriksson. Applicant submits that Fig. 2 of Eriksson does not show pairs of rollers that are disposed on a respective side of a plane of transportation. Contrary to the Examiner's position, the rollers shown in Fig. 2 of Eriksson are all disposed on the same side of the plane of transportation. This is evident from the disclosure of Eriksson at col. 1, lines 12-41.

Such feeding devices are for instance used in saw mills, wood working plants or the like. One type of the feeding devices previously known comprises a plurality of parallel, rotatable feeding rolls entirely or partly provided with some kind of knurling or tothing on the surfaces to engage objects intended for feeding. A further known device comprises a plurality of parallel, rotatable rolls, each comprising a plurality of toothed or knurled rings arranged perpendicularly to the longitudinal direction of the rolls. Further it is known to design feeding rolls having helical feeding members.

The above and other types of known feeding devices are, however, suffering from the disadvantage that breakdowns or stoppages frequently occur in the feeding due to the fact that *the feeding members dig into the surfaces of the goods being feeded* and lose their driving engagement, which causes wedging the objects between

the rolls. This problem is particularly serious in feeding of damp, recently felled wood materials.

Thus, it is clear from Eriksson that its feeding devices are provided for feeding trunks, or the like, in saw mills, wood-working plants or the like. The particular problem which Eriksson attempts to address is that the prior art was faced with engaged objects being subject to wedging. The wedging had to be prevented. This is a different application and shows that Eriksson would not teach, suggest or disclose, the Applicant's present invention.

Further, Eriksson does not teach or disclose the Applicant's present invention for yet additional reasons. Figure 3 of Eriksson shows that there is provided above the feeding device having the toothings (3), a rotatable pressure and feeding roll (34). However, contrary to the Applicant's present invention, this further feeding roll (34), is located in one plane of transportation, and the feeding device having the toothings (3) is located in the other plane of transportation. The feeding roll (34) is not provided with elevations which are staggered relative to the elevations provided on the feeding roll having the toothings (3). Therefore, the Examiner's position that Eriksson would anticipate the Applicant's invention is not correct.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Eriksson fails to anticipate the Applicant's novel device as set forth in claim 1. In addition, Applicant's invention would not have been obvious in view of Eriksson, since the Applicant's claimed features are not disclosed or suggested in Eriksson. For these reasons reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims with respect to Eriksson is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 11, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 3,132,785 ("Kunz"). This rejection is respectfully but strenuously traversed and reconsideration and a withdrawal of the rejection are hereby respectfully requested.

Applicant's invention is not anticipated by, nor it is obvious in view of Kunz. Applicant has amended claim 1 (from which the additional rejected claims 8, 11, 18 and 19 depend) to include the feature *wherein said elevations are located along the plane of transportation in the region of the conveying path for contacting workpieces*. Support for this amendment is contained in the Applicant's specification at page 10, lines 25-28, in the published application (WO 03/069965 A).

The Examiner contends that Kunz discloses a similar device, in particular, asserting that Kunz discloses at least one pair of rollers (25) disposed on a respective side of the plane of transportation that are facing each other and have at least one elevation encircling the rollers (citing to Figs. 1-5 of Kunz). The Examiner also contends that Kunz discloses transport drives and that the elevations of rollers on one side of the plane of transportation are staggered relative to the elevations on the second roller of the roller pairs on the other side of the plane of transportation (referring to Figs. 3-5 of Kunz). The Examiner further argues that the elevations in Kunz range from 0.1 mm to 10 mm and that there is minimum spacing between rollers of a pair of rollers set by spacing between bearings (15) of the rollers and that the elevations have rounded front sides. The Examiner also discusses the width of the elevations as well as the spacing between the elevations annularly encircling the rollers and spacings between the respective turns of the elevations helically encircling

the rollers as ranging from 2 mm to 200 mm (again referring to Figs. 3-5 of Kunz). Finally, the Examiner asserts that the rollers of Kunz are provided with elevations which are configured to be formed by axles with rings (referring Figs. 3-5 and col. 2, lines 46-50 of Kunz). Kunz fails to disclose or suggest the Applicant's claimed invention. Kunz appears to relate to a drive mechanism used to drive a plurality of web transport rollers (col. 1, line 9-11). The drive mechanism of Kunz comprises pulleys (23, 25) which are provided with two rubber treads or O rings (37) on a first pulley (23) and one rubber tread or O ring (37) on a second pulley (25), with the tread or O ring (37) of the second pulley (25) being positioned intermediate the rubber treads or O rings on the first pulley (23). In Kunz, the drive belt (27) runs between the pulleys (23, 25) and is bent by the rubber treads or O rings (37) (col. 2, lines 47-66).

Applicant's present invention, as recited in the claims, is distinguishable over Kunz. In Kunz, unlike the Applicant's present invention, the rubber treads or O rings (37) are not located in a region where the web of material (11) is to be transported, i.e., in the region of the conveying path of the material to be transported. In viewing figures 3-5 of Kunz, the material (11) is not transported along with the drive belt (27), but rather, is transported in a different location. Thus, Kunz fails to disclose or suggest the Applicant's claimed invention. Not only does Kunz fail to disclose or suggest the Applicant's invention, but moreover, Kunz teaches just the opposite, namely, that the surfaces of the rollers (9), and not an encircled elevation, come into contact with the web of material (11) being transported. This is contrary to the Applicant's invention, since unlike the Applicant's invention, Kunz provides rubber treads or O rings not in the transport area location (where the web of material (11)

passes through); and not in the region of the conveying path for contacting workpieces, as Applicant claims. Kunz does not teach the Applicant's invention but something else. In Kunz, by the web of material (11) coming into contact with the entire surface of the roller (9), as is disclosed, any impurities such as dust particles and the like may be impressed into the surface of the web material and will hence damage that material.

To further and more particularly articulate the Applicant's invention, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the elevations on the rollers are located in the region of the conveying path. Applicant's invention is not suggested or disclosed by the cited references and should be patentable.

For reasons above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and a withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1, 8, 11, 18 and 19 with respect to Kunz.

CONCLUSION

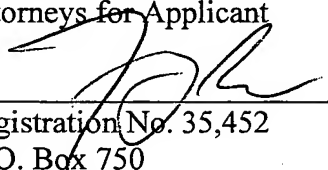
Applicant's invention is believed to be patentable in that the claims and the specification overcome the rejections set forth by the Examiner. If further matters remain in connection with this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned representative to resolve them.

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If an extension of time is required, one is hereby requested.

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